

GARDEN BONFIRE – ADVICE LEAFLET



You can have a bonfire in your garden but you cannot cause a nuisance to your neighbours. Bonfires can result in pollution and cause a nuisance so you should consider carefully if and how you burn waste.

During the COVID19 Lockdown

At This Difficult Time When We All Must Stay in Our Homes



Be Considerate To Your Neighbour



We Are All in This Together so be Considerate and Let's Work Together



Ask yourself "Do I Need to Burn the Garden Waste Right Now?"

BEFORE LIGHTING A BONFIRE

- **Consider the Alternative**
 - Home composting – most garden waste can be composted
 - Composting at Home- A How to Guide is available from the Zero Waste Scotland at www.zerowastescotland.org.uk/organics/composting or call the Home Composting Helpline on 0846 600 0323

- **Try to reduce nuisance**

You can minimise the nuisance caused by a bonfire in the following ways:

- Avoid having a bonfire while your neighbours have laundry drying, are enjoying their gardens or have their windows open
- Consider weather conditions and the effect they will have on the spread and dispersal of smoke
- Avoid lighting large fires or burning for long periods

- Avoid frequent bonfires

WHILST THE FIRE IS ALIGHT

- Burn as safely as possible
 - **DO NOT** light a fire in a place where it could spread or burn out of control
 - **DO NOT** burn painted or treated wood, rubber, plastics, household rubbish or similar products which can generate toxic fumes and dark smoke.
 - **DO NOT** use petrol or similar products to light or encourage a bonfire
 - **DO NOT** burn cables
 - **DO NOT** allow smoke to drift across the highway where it might cause an accident (you could also be fined by the Police under separate legislation)
 - **DO NOT** leave a fire unattended
 - **DO NOT** burn a bonfire before 6pm in the evening
 - **DO** have a means to extinguish a fire if needed

Try to reduce nuisance

- Avoid burning wet material as this usually generates more smoke
- Respond positively to any complaints from neighbours

ACTION BY THE COUNCIL

If a bonfire is causing a nuisance to neighbours then action can be taken under Section 80 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990. The Council can serve an abatement notice requiring the bonfire to be put out and preventing bonfires in the future. Normally bonfires must happen frequently for this action to be taken.

Failure to comply with the abatement notice is an offence carrying a maximum fine of £5,000.

CONTACT US

Environmental Health will investigate nuisance complaints in relation to bonfires. You can contact us by telephone on 01546 605519 or by email at envhealth@argyll-bute.gov.uk